

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY MATCH SUCCESS STORY



“Savannah & Halie”

Savannah was matched with her Big Sister, Halie, through the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry program in December 2022. Savannah's mother enrolled her with the intention of providing her with new experiences and opportunities for growth. Savannah's brother was already enrolled in the program and having seen the positive impact his Big was having, her mother enrolled Savannah, seeking similar experiences for her.

Halie and Savannah had their initial meeting at a local frozen yogurt shop, where they had the chance to engage in conversation and start building their relationship. Despite feeling a bit nervous and shy initially, they quickly bonded over shared interests.

“She seemed like a great kid and someone I was looking forward to getting to know better,” said Halie.

Halie and Savannah soon discovered that they were both creative as arts and crafts quickly became the cornerstone of their relationship. Early in the match, Halie and Savannah bonded during arts and crafts sessions in Halie's community clubhouse where they painted collaborative portraits on canvases, created photo frames, and made bracelets.

The pinnacle of their artistic endeavors was undoubtedly the creation of Savannah's custom-made jacket for the Taylor Swift concert. Through weeks of thrift shopping and crafting sessions, Halie not only nurtured Savannah's creativity but also empowered her with new skills by having a friend join them with her sewing machine to teach Savannah to sew. Savannah's joy in wearing her one-of-a-kind jacket to the concert is the perfect example of the positive outcomes that arise when mentorship intersects with shared interests.

Recognizing Savannah's enthusiasm for fashion design, Halie invited her to spend a day at apparel manufacturer Gildan, where Halie works as a merchandise manager. Halie's thoughtful gesture of taking Savannah to work at Gildan further enriched their relationship. From the warm welcome with balloons and a personalized sign to the immersive experience of witnessing the fashion industry firsthand, Savannah's day at Gildan was nothing short of extraordinary. Halie's colleagues embraced Savannah, offering her insights into their work, and igniting her aspirations to pursue fashion design.

“I learned about what they do and I was able to see how they design clothes and how they get made. It was SO fun!” said Savannah.

As Savannah continues to dream big, supported by her mother and Halie's unwavering belief in her potential, the future holds boundless possibilities. Halie's hopes for Savannah's journey—whether it's attending art school or carving her path in the fashion world—underscore the profound impact of mentorship in nurturing talent and fostering dreams.

